Plans of National Fisheries Development Board

274. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Fisheries Development Board would spearhead a Rs. 2,100 crores fisheries project for better production of fishes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan under this product to develop better quality/quantity marine fish production in the coastal region of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The National Fisheries Development Board has been registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act 2001, to bring the major activities relating to Fisheries and Aquaculture for focused attention and professional management. A tentative provision of Rs. 2100 crores has been approved for the Board for a period of 6 years from 2006-07 onwards.

(c) The Board shall coordinate activities pertaining to fisheries undertaken by different Ministries/Departments in the Central Govt. and also work in close coordination with the State/Union Territories Governments to improve production, processing, storage, transport and marketing of the products of capture and culture fisheries. Assistance under the various approved activities of the Board can be availed by all the State Governments including Orissa based on the merits of the proposal.

Cultivation of mustard

†275. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sowing work during 2006-07 for production of mustard under the rabi crop has been done on less land in comparison to last year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the area of land covered for sowing of mustard during 2006-07 alongwith the area covered for the same during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(d) what would be the estimated production of mustard in the current year due to less covering of land for sowing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the latest reports received in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) meeting held on 17.11.2006 in the Ministry, the area coverage under Rapeseed and Mustard during Rabi 2006-07 is 53.37 lakh hectares compared to 56.76 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Assam have reported less coverage this year compared to last year as on 17.11.2006. However, the sowing of Rapeseed and Mustard is under progress and more area coverage is likely.

(c) The final area coverage under Rapeseed and Mustard was 70.74 lakh hectares during 2005-06 and 73.16 lakh hectares during 2004-05.

(d) Sowing fo Rapeseed & Mustard is not year over. The 2nd advance estimates of production of Rapeseed and Mustard including other major crops are usually brought out in January, 2007.

Financial package for distressed farmers

276. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI K.CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced/given various financial packages to assist farmers to overcome economic distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of numerous measures (including financial packages) announced by Government, the suicide by farmers continues unabated; and